

[Name]
[Position, Company Name, etc.]
[Address]

Dear [Name]:

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has begun to focus some of its activities on the safe use of hydrogen as a motor vehicle fuel. It is our understanding that [Company Name] is involved in the development of vehicles that use hydrogen as a fuel and that you will be introducing a number of vehicles on the Nation's highways for use by the motoring public as part of the Department of Energy's controlled hydrogen fleet demonstration and validation project (or in a similar program). I am writing to request information about the steps your company has taken to ensure the safety of hydrogen-fueled vehicles.

Currently, no Federal motor vehicle safety standards exist for hydrogen-fueled vehicles. NHTSA recognizes that your company, as one of the leading manufacturers in this area, has spent significant time and resources developing and testing these vehicles and fuel systems so that they can be safely used. We are also aware that you are working with other companies to develop consensus standards, such as those developed by the Society of Automotive Engineers. We request that you provide the agency with specific information on the steps and actions your company is taking or are planning to take to ensure their safety, including refueling issues. In addition, we would very much appreciate you identifying those vehicle safety-related issues that you believe will need to be addressed in the future in order to help assure that production hydrogen-fueled vehicles are safe for public use. The information provided by your company and others will be used in part to assist the Agency in the development of its research plans.

On June 9, 2004, NHTSA received Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approval to collect the information that we are asking from you in this letter. (The OMB Clearance No. is 2127-0637.) Your submission of information in response to this request is voluntary. Should any of the information or documents you provide contain confidential information, you should submit a request for confidential treatment in accordance with Part 512 of the agency's regulations. The agency will consider such requests under the standard announced in *Critical Mass Energy Project v. Nuclear Regulatory Commission*, 975 F.2d 871 (D.C. Cir. 2001), and will accordingly keep information confidential if your company appropriately shows that it does not customarily disclose this type of information to the public.

As the U. S. agency responsible for motor vehicle safety, NHTSA urges you to take all the necessary steps to ensure that these vehicles can be safely operated. We request that the information be provided within 90 days. Thank you in advance for your assistance on this important issue.

For technical questions or clarifications, please contact Dr. W. Thomas Hollowell, Director of Applied Vehicle Safety Research at (202) 366-4726. If you would like to discuss any policy issues, please contact Stephen R. Kratzke, Associate Administrator for Rulemaking or myself, at (202) 366-1810.

Sincerely yours,

Ronald L. Medford
Senior Associate Administrator for
Vehicle Safety

cc: Mr. David K. Garman
Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficient and Renewable Energy
Department of Energy